

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 0266

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, MZ, WZ

SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS DISCUSSION WITH S.S. NXUMALO

REF: MBABANE 0258

1. SUMMARY. DURING MEETING WITH CODEL DIGGS ON FEB. 7, GOS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, MINES & TOURISM S. S. NXUMALO DISCUSSED AT LENGTH HIS CONCERNS RE EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT FOR SWAZILAND, GOOD RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE ARE ESSENTIAL, SINCE A HOSTILE MOZAMBIQUE COULD DO SWAZILAND GREAT HARM. FOR SWAZILAND, "THE RAIL LINK TO LOURENCO MARQUES IS VITAL." END SUMMARY.

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2. RE REGIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION, NXUMALO SAID HE HAD TWO

MAJOR CONCERNS. FIRST, FRELIMO IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM CHINA, THE SOVIET UNION, EAST GERMANY AND OTHER SOCIALIST GROUPS (ESPECIALLY FROM LISBON) FOR THE USE OF INDIAN OCEAN FACILITIES TO DEVELOP A BETTER STRATEGIC POSITION IN CASE THERE IS CONFRONTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN ADDITION, NYERERE IS PUSHING FOR A FEDERATION OF SOCIALIST-TYPE STATES, SEEKING AID FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST. THIS GROUPING MIGHT INCLUDE TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBOBWE, MOZAMBIQUE AND PERHAPS KENYA, WHERE THERE MAY BE A DISRUPTIVE POWER STRUGGLE WHEN KENYATTA GOES. THE LEADERSHIP OF KAUNDA AND MOBUTU WOULD BE CHALLENGED AS TOO CONSERVATIVE; BOTSWANA AND NIMIBIA MIGHT ALSO BE ADDED TO SUCH A LOOSE FEDERATION.

3. CHINA IS BACKING SUCH A FEDERATION, BELIEVING IT WOULD BE THE DOMINATING FORCE. NYERERE WOULD BE DISPOSED OF AT A LATER DATE "WHEN IT SUITS CERTAIN PEOPLE." SWAZILAND WOULD THEN BE EXPECTED "TO PLAY A CERTAIN TUNE." NXUMALO RULED OUT OPEN CONFRONTATION BUT NOT SUBERSIVE.

4. NXUMALO'S SECOND CONCERN IS THAT SAMORA MACHEL WILL NOT LAST. MACHEL IS CLEARLY IN CONTROL OF FRELIMO NOW, BUT HIS NO. 2, DOS SANTOS, IS VERY SHREWD, WELL EDUCATED AND "HAS A SCHEMING MIND." HOWEVER, DOS SANTOS HAS NO CONSTITUENCY IN MOZAMBIQUE.

5. ON RHODESIA, NXUMALO SAID THE SITUATION THERE IS CONTROLLED BY VORSTER. VANDERBECK (DIRECTOR OF BOSS) ERRED IN TRYING TO BUY SIMON KAPEPWE IN AN EFFORT TO TOPPLE KAUNDA. IN FACT, KAUNDA AND VORSTER WILL GO A LONG WAY TOGETHER. NXUMALO EXPECTS RHODESIA TO CHANGE AND THAT VORSTER WILL "PUT ALL THE SCREWS ON SMITH'S COFFIN." VORSTER HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO PULL OUT HIS TROOPS AND IS EVEN DREAMING OF A SEAT IN THE OAU* SMITH'S RIGHT-HAND MEN, ESPECIALLY IN INTELLIGENCE, WERE HAND-PICKED BY VORSTER. VORSTER IS CAPABLE OF FORMING ANOTHER WHITE PARTY TO TAKE OVER FROM SMITH, AND SMITH KNOWS THIS. A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA IS LIKELY WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, IF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CAN REMAIN UNIFIED -- THIS IS THE KEY ELEMENT. ZIMBOBWE
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WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO SUPPORT KAUNDA AS OPPOSED TO NYERERE OR MACHEL IF THERE IS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN MORE PRESTIGE FOR KAUNDA.

6. NXUMALO SAID VORSTER IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND CAPE ROUTE. HE EXPECTS THAT VORSTER MAY "SAY A LITTLE" NEXT APRIL OR MAY. FOR EXAMPLE, HE MAY SAY THAT ANYONE WHO WANTS "INDEPENDENCE"

CAN HAVE IT, OR HE MAY GIVE A FEW TOWNS TO THE BANTUSTANS. VORSTER IS BUYING TIME NOW, SINCE HIS BUFFER ZONES ARE GOING, TO PREPARE SOUTH AFRICANS FOR THE KIND OF CHANGES THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICA. VORSTER IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT WHO THE NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT WILL BE.

7. COMMENT. SIMON NXUMALO HAS BEEN ONE OF SWAZILAND'S LEADING POLITICIANS SINCE 1962. HE HAS TRAVELED WIDELY IN AFRICA AND KNOWS PERSONALLY MANY OF AFRICA'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES. BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SUCH PERSONALITIES, NXUMALO FREQUENTLY REPRESENTS SWAZILAND AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND KEEPS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AREA DEVELOPMENTS.

8. REP. DIGGS LISTENED CAREFULLY TO NXUMALO'S PRESENTATION AND ASKED MS. YATES TO PREPARE A DETAILED MEMCON FOR HIS FILES.
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